

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices comprising the acts of:

5 (a) subscribing to receive reports on a plurality of medical imaging devices;

(b) compiling a customized customer profile;

(c) establishing a link between the medical imaging devices and a remote analysis center;

(d) acquiring examination data using the medical imaging devices;

(e) automatically transmitting the examination data to a remote analysis center;

(f) automatically screening the examination data for errors;

(g) automatically standardizing the examination data;

15 (h) automatically storing the examination data in a centralized database;

(i) automatically preparing reports based on the customized customer profile and the examination data; and

(j) automatically delivering the reports to the customer.

20 2. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, wherein act (a) comprises the act of providing a Facility

Profile.

3. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, wherein act (a) comprises the act of providing a Report Profile.

5 4. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, wherein act (e) comprises the act of automatically transmitting the examination data to a remote analysis center at least twice each week.

10 5. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, wherein act (f) comprises the act of screening the examination data for defects and missing data.

6. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, wherein act (g) comprises the act of standardizing the examination data by assigning uniform exam terminology to like exam procedures.

7. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, wherein act (g) comprises the act of assigning American Medical Association Current Protocol Terminology.

8. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, wherein act (g) comprises the act of categorizing examination data using a string-matching algorithm.

20 9. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, wherein act (h) comprises the act of interpreting the transmitted data and asserting the data into a database.

25 10. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, wherein act (i) comprises the act of automatically preparing reports comprising comparative historical data.

11. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, wherein act (i) comprises the act of automatically preparing reports comprising heuristical data.

5 12. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, wherein act (i) comprises the act of automatically generating system models.

13. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, wherein act (j) comprises the act of automatically delivering the reports to the customer via electronic delivery.

10 14. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the act of providing a user help line.

15 15. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the act of developing a correction strategy.

16. A method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices comprising the acts of:

20 (a) automatically transmitting examination data acquired from the medical imaging devices to a remote analysis center;

(b) automatically screening the examination data for errors;

(c) automatically standardizing the examination data;

(d) automatically storing the examination data in a centralized database;

(e) automatically preparing reports based on a customized customer

profile and the examination data; and

(f) automatically delivering the reports to a customer.

17. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 16, wherein act (a) comprises the act of automatically transmitting the examination data to a remote analysis center at least twice each week.

18. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 16, wherein act (b) comprises the act of screening the examination data for defects and missing data.

19. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 16, wherein act (c) comprises the act of standardizing the examination data by assigning uniform exam terminology to like exam procedures.

20. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 16, wherein act (c) comprises the act of assigning American Medical Association Current Protocol Terminology.

21. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 16, wherein act (c) comprises the act of categorizing examination data using a string-matching algorithm.

22. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 16, wherein act (d) comprises the act of interpreting the transmitted data and asserting the data into a database.

23. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 16, wherein act (e) comprises the act of automatically preparing reports comprising comparative historical data.

24. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 16, wherein act (e) comprises the act of automatically

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preparing reports comprising heuristical data.

25. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 16, wherein act (e) comprises the act of automatically generating system models.

5 26. The method of automatically providing reports on medical imaging devices, as set forth in claim 16, wherein act (f) comprises the act of automatically delivering the reports to the customer via electronic delivery.

27. A reporting network comprising:

a medical facility comprising a plurality of medical imaging devices, the medical imaging devices configured to automatically transmit medical imaging data to a remote location; and

a remote analysis center electronically coupled to the medical facility and configured to automatically receive the medical imaging data transmitted from the medical imaging devices and further configured to automatically generate reports from the data received from the medical imaging devices.

28. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 27, wherein the analysis center is electronically coupled to the medical facility via a computer network.

29. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 27, wherein the reports are automatically delivered to a predetermined location.

20 30. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 29, wherein the reports are automatically delivered to a customer via electronic delivery.

31. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 27, wherein the analysis center further comprises a historical database comprising medical imaging data taken from a plurality of medical imaging devices.

32. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 31, wherein the reports comprise data taken from the historical database.

5 33. A reporting network comprising a remote analysis center electronically coupled to a medical facility and configured to automatically receive medical imaging data transmitted from the medical imaging devices and further configured to automatically generate reports from the data received from the medical imaging devices.

34. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 33, wherein the analysis center is electronically coupled to a medical facility via a computer network.

10 35. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 33, wherein the reports are automatically delivered to a predetermined location.

36. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 35, wherein the reports are automatically delivered to a customer via electronic delivery.

15 37. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 33, wherein the analysis center further comprises a historical database comprising medical imaging data taken from a plurality of medical imaging devices.

38. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 37, wherein the reports comprise data taken from the historical database.

20 39. A reporting network comprising:

a plurality of medical imaging devices configured to automatically transmit medical imaging data to a remote location; and

a computer located at the remote location, the computer electronically coupled to the plurality of medical imaging devices and configured to automatically receive the medical imaging data transmitted from the data received from the medical imaging devices.

40. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 39, wherein the computer is electronically coupled to the medical facility via a computer network.

41. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 39, wherein the reports are automatically delivered to a predetermined location.

5 42. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 41, wherein the reports are automatically delivered to a customer via electronic delivery.

43. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 39, wherein the computer further comprises a historical database comprising medical imaging data taken from a plurality of medical imaging devices.

10 44. The reporting network, as set forth in claim 43, wherein the reports comprise data taken from the historical database.

45. A computer-readable medium storing computer instructions for:

(a) automatically transmitting examination data acquired from medical imaging devices to a remote analysis center;

(b) automatically screening the examination data for errors;

(c) automatically standardizing the examination data;

(d) automatically storing the examination data in a centralized database;

(e) automatically preparing reports based on a customized customer profile and the examination data; and

(f) automatically delivering the reports to a customer.

20 46. A tangible medium for storing a computer program comprising:

- (a) instructions for automatically transmitting examination data acquired from medical imaging devices to a remote analysis center;
- (b) instructions for automatically screening the examination data for errors;
- (c) instructions for automatically standardizing the examination data;
- (d) instructions for automatically storing the examination data in a centralized database;
- (e) instructions for automatically preparing reports based on a customized customer profile and the examination data; and
- (f) instructions for automatically delivering the reports to a customer.